

THE PASSANO FOUNDATION, INC.

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January 5, 1949

The Directors of the Passano Foundation ask your aid in selecting the recipient of the Passano Award for 1949. We hope not only to procure that aid but to have the honor of your presence at the ceremonies of presentation on a date still to be determined.

We have, thus far, pursued the usual first step in the selection of a recipient -- that of asking nominations from about a thousand prominent members of the medical profession, throughout the country. The canvass has brought forward three major contributions. These we recite in the alphabetic order of the names with which they are associated:

OSWALD T. AVERY of the Rockefeller Institute, for fundamental contributions to the chemical aspects of bacteriology, particularly the antigenic analysis of pneumococcus and its polysaccharides.

CHARLES B. HUGGINS, of the University of Chicago for studies in the physiology, pathology, and etiology of prostatic cancer and the consequent development of new methods of treatment.

PHILLIP LEVINE of Raritan, N.J. and ALEXANDER WIENER of Brooklyn, N.Y. for development of knowledge of the Rh factor and its relation to erythroblastosis fetalis and blood transfusion reactions. (These names are coupled because they were coupled on many ballots and because the contributions appear to be inseparable).

We now seek your advice as to which of these endeavors is most eligible for this year's Award. As doubtless you know, the aim of the Award is to recognize outstanding recent research in the medical field, with particular reference to clinical application. Please give us your judgment by considering that a total of 10 points is to be divided among the candidates. Thus one may receive 3 points, another 5, the third 2; or one 7, another 3 and the third none; or any other division that sums up to 10. Comment

on the reasons for your judgment, if you care to make any, will be most welcome.

A group of 25 eminent medical men, including yourself, has been selected to assist the Board of Directors in making the proper selection.

Your advice is regarded as essential in insuring bebtowal of the Award in the high tradition established by previous awards; please accept our sincere thanks for it. A self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your reply.

ROBERT S. GILL
President